

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. 4

A.B.
6/12/08 The application has been amended as follows: in claim 2, at line 2, before "devices when the playback authorization is obtained" delete "device".

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1-13 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

As persuasively argued by Applicant, in the Remarks/Arguments section (pp. 10-16) of the amendment filed Feb 14, 2008, the prior art references of record, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest:

a method for determining a bonus information item for a first user of a recording device, as recited in Claim 1;

a playback device for, among other things, obtaining a playback authorization for playing back a coded playback information item recorded on a recording carrier and providing a bonus information item for a first user from a number of recorder identification information items transferred during a billing period to the authorizing device by a second user that uses the playback device to play back the coded playback information item, as recited in Claim 5; and

an authorizing device for, among other things, granting a playback authorization for playing back a coded playback information item with the aid of one or more playback devices, receiving a playback authorization inquiry information item which includes a recorder identification information item identifying the recording